ONGC compounded by bureaucratic red tape?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) ONGC with the assistance of US experts had set a time frame to try and extinguish the fire by 18.02.1995.

(b) The loss caused is being assessed.

(c) People from the affected villages were immediately evacuated to relief camps and provided food and medical facilities.

(d) Yes, Sir. However, the opinion expresseed by Mr. Neal Adams is not correct.

US company to cap the burning well of ONGC

521. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC had recently requisitioned the services of US based company to cap the burning well near Amalapuram in A.P. where a blow out occurred recently;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred by the ONGC for utilising the services of M/s. Neil Adams Fire Fighter Inc., Houston which is prepared to cap the burning well;

(c) what was the estimated quantity of gas lost in the burning well; and

(d) preventive steps proposed to be taken by ONGC to avoid such burning of gas in the wells in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far, an amount of Rs. 1,07,95,285/- has been paid to Messers Neal Adams Fire Fighters Inc., Houston.

(c) Approximately 8 to 10 lakhs cubic metres of gas per day.

(d) A number of fresh instructions have been issued by ONGC to prevent such incidents.

Damage due to ONGC's well fire

522. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fire in the ONGC's gas well at Pasarlapudi in Krishna-Godavari basin has caused damage to the environment, vegetation, crops and human health in the vicinity of the fire;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and whether any compensation has been or is likely to be paid to such people and whether any scheme has beeen chalked out to restore the damage to environment; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Officials of the Andhra Pradesh State Pollution Control Board and ONGC are continuously monitoring the environmental parameters. From the measures values of air samples it is observed that presence of unburnt hydrocarbons Hydrogen Salphide, or Sulphide or Sulphur dioxide is below detectable limit. Environmental experts from National Institute of Oceanography, Goa and University of Pune have been engaged to carry out a study on the environmental impact due to the blow out on the flora, fauna, water resources, marine organisms and ambient air quality.

(c) Does not arise.

Steps to discourage wastage of Petroleum products

523. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of wasteful practices are prevalent among users of petroleum and its allied products and which the Petroleum Conservation Research Association had also identified;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to discourage such practices and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Improvement in reducing wasteful practices of petroleum products is a continuous process by way of innovation and technologies' upgradation. Areas for improvement so far identified are replacement of furnaces with higher efficiency, recovery of more heat from hot streams in the refineries, use of better pumps to reduce leakage of petroleum products, improvement in gas flare management, use of efficient machineries, design and marketing of efficient LPG and kerosene stoves, etc.

(c) Government have taken number of steps like—

(i) mass awareness campaigns, training programmes, seminars, energy use studies, energy audits, fuel oil use studies demonstration of projects in various sectors, etc.

(ii) development and promotion of the use of fuel efficient appliances like kerosene and LPG stoves in the household sector;

(iii) standardisation of fuel efficient irrigation pumpsets and rectification of existing pumpsets in the agricultural sector;

(iv) promotion of fuel efficient practices and equipments, etc. in the industrial sector;

(v) adoption of practices conducive to increased fuel efficiency and training programmes in the transport sector; and

(vi) use of natural gas in the oil field operators in order to conserve liquified hydrocarbon resources.

The above steps have resulted in encouraging results.

Dwindling crude output in Cambay and Assam

524. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dwindling crude output in Cambay and Assam areas are thwarting the ambitious crude oil production target in the 8th Five Year Plan period as reported in the 'Telegraph' of February 1, 1995; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps are being contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The decline in indigenous production of crude oil upto the year 1992-93 was due to wider factors such as ageing of oil fields; implementation of rectificatory measures in the Bombay High, environmental constraints in the North-East etc.

(b) The remedial measures initiated to boost the indigenous production of crude oil include:—

(i) Extension of some enhanced oil recovery schemes from pilot scale to full scale field application.